Appl. No. 10/043,653
Amdt. dated 11/21/2003
Reply to Office Action of August 21, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended)   An apparatus for agitating fluids in a container, comprising:

a container holder for holding a container of fluid to be agitated;

a motor for providing a first rotational driving force, said driving force being limited so as to inhibit the formation of bubbles in said fluid during agitation;

a drive cam coupled to said motor for receiving said first rotational driving force and converting said first rotational driving force into a second driving force having a reciprocal and rotational components;

a container holder for holding a fluid container, the contents of which are to be agitated;

a drive shaft coupled to said drive cam and to said container holder for receiving said second driving force and communicating it to said fluid container to agitate the contents thereof to induce a vortex-like agitation of said fluid.

Claim 2 (original)   The apparatus of claim 1 including a drive reducer for coupling said motor to said drive cam.

Claim 3 (original)   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said drive cam has an offset lobe, and said drive cam is coupled to said drive shaft by said offset lobe.

Claim 4 (original)   The apparatus of claim 2 including a cam shaft, and wherein said drive cam is coupled to said motor by said drive reducer and said cam shaft.

Claim 5 (original)   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said container holder is rigidly coupled to said drive shaft.

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Claims 6-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended)   A method for agitating fluids in a container, comprising:

providing a first rotational driving force, said driving force being limited so as to inhibit the formation of bubbles in said fluid during agitation;

converting said first rotational driving force into a second driving force having a reciprocal and rotational components; and

applying said second driving force to a fluid said container to agitate the contents of said fluid container to induce a vortex-like agitation of said fluid.

Claims 10-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended)   An apparatus for agitating fluids in a container, comprising:

first means for holding a container of fluid to be agitated;

first second means for providing a first rotational driving force, said driving force being limited so as to inhibit the formation of bubbles in said fluid during agitation;

second third means coupled to said first second means for receiving said first rotational driving force and converting said first rotational driving force into a second driving force having a reciprocal and rotational components; and

third means for holding a fluid container, the contents of which are to be agitated; and

fourth means coupled to said second first means and to said third means for receiving said second driving force and communicating it to said fluid container to agitate the contents thereof induce a vortex-like agitation of said fluid.

Claim 14 (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said second third means includes a drive cam.

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    Claim 15 (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said drive cam has an offset lobe, and wherein said fourth means is coupled to said ~~second~~ <u>third</u> means by said offset lobe.

    Claim 16 (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 14 including a drive reducer and a cam shaft, and wherein said drive cam is coupled to said ~~first~~ <u>second</u> means by said drive reducer and said cam shaft.

    Claim 17 (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said ~~third~~ <u>first</u> means includes a container holder, said fourth means includes a drive shaft, and wherein said container holder is rigidly coupled to said drive shaft.

    Claims 18-20 (canceled)